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3 **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

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6 1. (currently amended) A clamping plate assembly for movement
7 laterally into and out of engagement with a load including in
8 combination:

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10 a main plate member having front, rear, upper and lower
11 edges; an auxiliary plate overlying the main plate member and
12 extending from the lower edge of the main plate member a
13 predetermined distance toward the upper edge thereof and extending
14 substantially from the rear edge of the main plate member to the
15 front edge thereof, where the predetermined distance is a fraction
16 of the distance between the lower and upper edges of the main plate
17 member, with the auxiliary plate removably attached to the main
18 plate member; and yieldable friction material over substantially
19 the major portions of the auxiliary plate and the portion of the
20 main plate member not covered by the auxiliary plate.

21 2. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1
22 wherein the yieldable friction material is selected to be made of
23 resilient compressible material.

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1 3. (Original) A clamping plate according to Claim 2 wherein
2 the yieldable friction material is a compressible rubber-like
3 material.

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5 4. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 3
6 wherein the yieldable friction material is bonded to the auxiliary
7 plate and the portion of the main plate member not covered by the
8 auxiliary plate.

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10 5. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 4
11 wherein the yieldable friction material is a rubber-like material
12 having a plurality of closed spaced grooves in it extending
13 parallel to one another between the front and lower edges of the
14 main plate member and substantially parallel to the upper and
15 lower edges of the main plate member.

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18 6. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 5
19 wherein the thickness of the yieldable friction material is between
20 5/8" and 1 1/4" in the portions between the grooves therein.

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23 7. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 6
24 wherein the main plate member and the auxiliary plate are made of
25 aluminum.

1 8. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 7
2 further including recessed bolts for removably attaching the
3 auxiliary plate to the main plate member.

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5 9. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 8
6 wherein the auxiliary plate has a front edge and a rear edge, with
7 the rear edge thereof substantially terminating in the same plane
8 as the rear edge of the main plate member and the front edge of the
9 auxiliary plate terminating a short distance from the front edge of
10 the main plate member, and further including a wear resistant nose
11 piece attached to the main plate member between the front edge
12 thereof and the front edge of the auxiliary plate.

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15 10. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 9
16 wherein the nose piece is made of wear resistant material.

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19 11. (Original) The clamping plate assembly according to Claim
20 9 wherein the nose piece is made of aluminum with the front edge
21 thereof tapering from the front edge of the main plate member
22 outwardly from the main plate member to a surface located in a
23 plane parallel to the main plate member.

1 12. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 11
2 wherein the thickness of the combination of the auxiliary plate and
3 the yieldable friction material thereon is greater than the maximum
4 thickness of the nose piece.

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6 13. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 12
7 wherein the auxiliary plate and the nose piece are removably
8 attached to the main plate member with countersunk bolts, the
9 exposed heads thereof being below the exposed surfaces of the
10 auxiliary plate and the nose piece.
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13 14. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim
14 13 wherein the thickness of the yieldable friction material on the
15 portion of the main plate member is greater than the thickness of
16 the auxiliary plate; and the thickness of the yieldable friction
17 material on the auxiliary plate is selected to cause the exposed
18 surface of the yieldable friction material on the auxiliary plate
19 to be in the same plane as the exposed surface of the yieldable
20 friction material on the main plate assembly.
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23 15. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1
24 wherein the auxiliary plate has a front edge and a rear edge, with
25 the rear edge thereof substantially terminating in the same plane
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as the rear edge of the main plate member and the front edge of the auxiliary plate terminating a short distance from the front edge of the main plate member, and further including a wear resistant nose piece attached to the main plate member between the front edge thereof and the front edge of the auxiliary plate.

16. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 15 wherein the nose piece is made of wear resistant material.

17. (Original) The clamping plate assembly according to Claim 16 wherein the nose piece is made of aluminum with the front edge thereof tapering from the front edge of the main plate member outwardly from the main plate member to a surface located in a plane parallel to the main plate member.

18. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 17 wherein the thickness of the combination of the auxiliary plate and the yieldable friction material thereon is greater than the maximum thickness of the nose piece.

1 19. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 18
2 wherein the auxiliary plate and the nose piece are removably
3 attached to the main plate member with countersunk bolts, the
4 exposed heads thereof being below the exposed surfaces of the
5 auxiliary plate and the nose piece.

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7 20. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 13
8 wherein the thickness of the yieldable friction material on the
9 portion of the main plate member is greater than the thickness of
10 the auxiliary plate; and the thickness of the yieldable friction
11 material on the auxiliary plate is selected to cause the exposed
12 surface of the yieldable friction material on the auxiliary plate
13 to be in the same plane as the exposed surface of the yieldable
14 friction material on the main plate assembly.
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17 21. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 20
18 wherein the yieldable friction material is a rubber-like material
19 having a plurality of closed spaced grooves in it extending
20 parallel to one another between the front and lower edges of the
21 main plate member and substantially parallel to the upper and
22 lower edges of the main plate member.
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1 22. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 21
2 wherein the thickness of the yieldable friction material is between
3 5/8" and 1 1/4" in the portions between the grooves therein.
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6 23. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1
7 wherein the main plate member and the auxiliary plate are made of
8 aluminum.
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11 24. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1
12 wherein the yieldable friction material is bonded to the auxiliary
13 plate and the portion of the main plate member not covered by the
14 auxiliary plate.
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17 25. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim
18 1 further including recessed bolts for removably attaching the
19 auxiliary plate to the main plate member.
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1 26. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1
2 wherein the thickness of the yieldable friction material on the
3 portion of the main plate member is greater than the thickness of
4 the auxiliary plate; and the thickness of the yieldable friction
5 material on the auxiliary plate is selected to cause the exposed
6 surface of the yieldable friction material on the auxiliary plate
7 to be in the same plane as the exposed surface of the yieldable
8 friction material on the main plate assembly.
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10 27. (Original) A clamping plate assembly for movement
11 laterally into and out of engagement with a load including in
12 combination: a main rectangular plate member having front, rear,
13 upper and lower edges; an auxiliary plate overlying the main plate
14 member and extending from the lower edge of the main plate member
15 a short distance toward the upper edge thereof and extending
16 substantially from the rear edge of the main plate member to the
17 front edge thereof, the short distance being a minor portion of the
18 distance between the lower and upper edges of the main backing
19 plate member and with the auxiliary plate removably attached to the
20 main plate member; and yieldable friction material attached to and
21 covering substantially the major portion of the auxiliary plate and
22 the portion of the main plate member not covered by the auxiliary
23 plate.
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1 28. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim
2 27 wherein the yieldable friction material is selected to be made
3 of resilient compressible material.

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5 29. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 28
6 wherein the yieldable friction material is a rubber-like material
7 having a plurality of closed spaced grooves in it extending
8 parallel to one another between the front and lower edges of the
9 main plate member and substantially parallel to the upper and
10 lower edges of the main plate member.

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13 30. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 29
14 wherein the thickness of the yieldable friction material is between
15 3/8" and 1 1/4" in the portions between the grooves therein.

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18 31. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 27
19 wherein the auxiliary plate has a front edge and a rear edge, with
20 the rear edge thereof substantially terminating in the same plane
21 as the rear edge of the main plate member and the front edge of the
22 auxiliary plate terminating a short distance from the front edge of
23 the main plate member, and further including a wear resistant nose
24 piece attached to the main plate member between the front edge
25 thereof and the front edge of the auxiliary plate.

1 32. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 31.
2 wherein the nose piece is made of wear resistant material.

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4 33. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 27
5 further including recessed bolts for removably attaching the
6 auxiliary plate to the main plate member.

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8 34. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 33
9 wherein the auxiliary plate and the nose piece are removably
10 attached to the main plate member with countersunk bolts, the
11 exposed heads thereof being below the exposed surfaces of the
12 auxiliary plate and the nose piece.

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15 35. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 27
16 wherein the yieldable friction material is bonded to the auxiliary
17 plate and the portion of the main plate member not covered by the
18 auxiliary plate.